

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-03

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L/PM - MR. BOREK

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R 101841Z APR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: MASS, UK, AS, US

SUBJECT:AUSTRALIAN SALE OF 40MM AMMUNITION TO U.K.

1. THE DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED A LETTER REQUEST FROM THE EMBASSY OF AUSTRALIA TO APPROVE THE SALE OF 1600 ROUNDS OF 40MM AMMUNITION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA TO THE UNITED KINGDOM. THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY HAD PURCHASED APPROXIMATELY 40,000 ROUNDS OF THIS AMMUNITION FROM THE USG IN JUNE 1971. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FOREIGN MILITARY SALES ACT, USG APPROVAL IS REQUIRED FOR TRANSFER OF U.S. ORIGIN EQUIPMENT/ MUNITIONS TO A THIRD COUNTRY.

2. FOR CANBERRA: YOU MAY INFORM APPROPRIATE AUSTRALIAN OFFICIALS THAT USG IS PREPARED TO APPROVE SALE OF 1600 ROUNDS OF 40MM AMMUNITION, PENDING OUR RECEIPT OF STANDARD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TRANSFER ASSURANCES IN WRITING FROM HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

(HMG). IN ADDITION, UNDER SECTION 3(A) OF FOREIGN MILITARY SALES ACT, WE HAVE NOTIFIED CONGRESS IN ADVANCE OF OUR APPROVING THE AMMUNITION TRANSFER. WHILE WE ANTICIPATE NO DIFFICULTIES WITH ABOVE TWO REQUIREMENTS, YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE TO AUSTRALIANS THAT USG FINAL APPROVAL CAN NOT BE PROVIDED UNTIL BOTH OF THESE STEPS ARE COMPLETED.

3. FOR LONDON: EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO OBTAIN FROM HMG THIRD-PARTY TRANSFER ASSURANCES IN WRITING AS FOLLOWS:
"THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF HMG PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND HAS THE HONOR TO CALL TO THE ATTENTION OF THE EMBASSY THE PROPOSED PURCHASE BY HMG OF 1,600 ROUNDS OF 40MM AMMUNITION FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA. HMG UNDERSTANDS THAT THE CONSUMMATION OF THIS TRANSACTION IS DEPENDENT UPON THE RECEIPT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA OF WRITTEN CONSENT TO THE SALE FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND FURTHER UNDERSTANDS THAT IN KEEPING WITH UNITED STATES LAW AND REGULATIONS, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES MAY GIVE SUCH CONSENT ONLY UPON BEING FURNISHED WITH ASSURANCES FROM HMG THAT IT WILL NOT TRANSFER BY ANY MEANS SUCH DEFENSE ARTICLES TO ANY OTHER COUNTRY, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION, OR PERSON WITHOUT FIRST OBTAINING THE WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FOREGOING, HMG HEREBY GIVES ITS ASSURANCES THAT IT WILL NOT TRANSFER THE AMMUNITION WHICH IT PROPOSES TO PURCHASE FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA BY SALE, LEASE, RELEASE, ASSIGNMENT, LOAN, CONVEYANCE, OR ANY OTHER MEANS TO ANOTHER GOVERNMENT, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION, OR PERSON WITHOUT FIRST OBTAINING THE WRITTEN APPROVAL OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. (FORMAL CLOSE)." PLEASE INFORM DEPARTMENT WHEN ABOVE ASSURANCES ARE RECEIVED AND PROVIDE COPY OF TEXT BY POUCH. KISSINGER

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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